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# SHRINKAGE FACTS ON MEN'S SHIRTS

When a man can't button his collar after his shirt has been washed, the chances are that whoever bought the shirt wasn't thinking about shrinkage. A poor-quality shirt is rarely preshrunk, and no allowance is made for shrinkage. Therefore the collar may be tight or the sleeves too short after it is laundered. Some of the poor-grade covert and chambray work shirts shrink as much as 10 percent in one direction.

Shrinkage can't be judged by looking at a shirt fabric. You need to look for facts on labels, says the Bureau of Home Economics. Many good- and medium-grade shirts have been submitted to a controlled shrinkage process. These shirts are usually cut a little larger than the stamped neck and sleeve size to allow for slight additional shrinkage, possibly 2 percent. After laundering, the measurements should be the same as the stamped size.

The Federal Trade Commission recently ruled that terms like "full shrunk" and "preshrunk" shall not be used in describing or labeling any cotton material unless the fabric will not shrink at all when laundered. If the material will shrink further, the label must tell how much. Terms like "preshrunk" may be used only if they are qualified by an additional statement, such as "will not shrink more than ..... percent." If a label says "full shrunk" without reference to any part of the shirt, the term should refer to the entire garment. If the label says "collar linings preshrunk," the body of the shirt has not necessarily been subjected to a shrinkage treatment. It may shrink badly.